

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 948 - HB 1322

March 20, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires each law enforcement agency that utilizes police service canines to submit an annual report to the Peace Office Standards and Training (POST) Commission including: (1) the number of times police canines were deployed; (2) the number of searches and those that were successful; (3) any contact with a subject other than a bite; (4) the number of bites of a subject; and (5) policies concerning training of the canines.

Requires the POST Commission to develop recommended training requirements and standards for police canines by January 1, 2022. Requires each agency that utilizes police canines to substantially conform to the POST Commission policies by July 1, 2022.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Law enforcement agencies that utilize police service canines can submit the annual report of canine statistics to the POST Commission within existing resources.
- There is not currently a required organization that law enforcement agencies must utilize for training of police canines. Agencies either pay private training facilities or have employed, dedicated trainers on-site.
- According to the POST Commission 2021 training course schedule, Henry County Sheriff's Office has been approved to complete certification through the North American Police Dog Work Association. The Knoxville Police Department and 45-50 canine teams throughout East Tennessee certify canines through the International Police Dog Association. The Metro-Nashville Police Canine Unit canines and handlers are certified through the United States Police Canine Association.
- The average training time period throughout multiple organizations is at least a 10-week program, while handlers or on-site trainers will continue training with each shift the canine works.
- Law enforcement agencies that certify police canines and handlers through an organization that does not substantially conform to the POST policies could experience an increase in expenditures for additional trainers or private instruction; however, it is estimated that agencies currently utilizing police canines will have substantially similar policies and regulation to those recommended by the POST Commission.
- The POST Commission can develop recommended policies and training requirements for police canines within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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